

ONE MAN GIVEN FULL CHARGE OF BRITISH BLOCKADE

Will Be Member of Cabinet with the Title of Blockade Minister—Post Will Probably Go to Lord Robert Cecil.

BERESFORD'S MAIDEN SPEECH

New Member of House of Lords Makes Spirited Plea for Stricter Blockade, Departing from Usual Dignified Style of Address in Upper House.

London, Feb. 23.—The government, through the Marquis of Lansdowne, announced in the House of Lords tonight that it had decided to turn over all matters connected with the blockade of Germany to one man who would rank as a full fledged cabinet minister. It is understood that the new post will go to Lord Robert Cecil, who, since the formation of the coalition government, has been under secretary for foreign affairs. He will retain this post, joining the cabinet as blockade minister.

The new minister will be charged with the administration of the order in council regulating the blockade, as well as responsibility for the general policy and practice of the government with respect to trade passing into or from neutral countries.

Lord Robert Cecil is a lawyer of wide experience and a young man, as members of the British cabinet go. In the foreign office he has been intimately concerned with the blockade operations particularly in their relation to the complicated matters touching belligerent and neutral rights. His elevation to the cabinet will give the blockade another representative in the coalition council.

The whole question of the blockade was threshed out at considerable length in the House of Lords this afternoon. Baron Sydenham and Baron Beresford made the principal appeals for a stricter blockade, while the Marquis of Lansdowne and Baron Buckmaster defended the government. The speech was made by the Marquis of Lansdowne, while the Marquis of Beresford's maiden speech in the House of Lords and his plea was spirited and epigrammatic, contrasting notably with the ordinary, sombre, ultra dignified debates of the upper house.

ARTHUR L. WILLIAMS DEAD; VERMONT '04

Principal of Saugus High School—Pupil Prayed for His Recovery.

Saugus, Mass., Feb. 23.—Principal Arthur L. Williams of the Saugus high school died yesterday morning at his home of pneumonia. When he passed away the student body was in prayer at the high school for his recovery. It had been assembled in the hall for the purpose, and the prayer was led by the Rev. Charles W. E. Lyon of St. John's Episcopal Church.

Mr. Williams was serving his second year as principal of the school, and was very highly regarded throughout this town and surrounding places. His death came as a shock to the townspeople. The sessions at the different public schools were immediately dismissed, and the flags on the public buildings placed at half-staff.

Mr. Williams was born in Lawrence in 1870, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Asa Williams. He attended the high school in Winchendon, from which he was graduated with honors. He then entered the University of Vermont, from which he was graduated in 1904.

Mr. Williams first taught in the high school at Lyndonville, Vt., as sub-principal. He next taught at the Plymouth high school. After that he was for two years sub-master of the Shrewsbury high school. His first principalship was at Dalton. From there he went to Bristol, R. I., where he was principal at the Colt Memorial high school. He came to Saugus in 1914. In 1906 he was married. He was a Mason and the Fellow, a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and member of the board of trade here.

SEVERAL REQUESTS TO RUTLAND INSTITUTIONS

Rutland, Feb. 23.—The will of James Russell, a well known Pine Island, Vt., citizen, who died a few weeks ago, was probated today in the court of Judge A. G. Coolidge. Mr. Russell left \$100 to the Rutland hospital, \$100 to the Rutland Missionary association, \$50 to the Methodist church and all of the residue of his estate is to be divided among these institutions.

Mrs. Thomas Mould of this city, with whom he lived, gave a bequest of \$100, and her daughter, Mrs. A. W. Huffer of Rutland, a trust fund of \$500.

Embezzlement Charged.

Rutland, Feb. 23.—On a warrant issued by State's Attorney C. V. Poulin, Deputy Sheriff Pascal Ricci today arrested John P. Shoultice, who was at work in the cutting department of the Vermont Marble company at Proctor on a charge of embezzlement.

It is claimed by the State that Shoultice, who is 27 years old, collected \$86.33 while acting as agent of the Sagar Sewing Machine company with offices in this city from purchasers of machines and this money he has failed to turn in to the company's office.

RUTLAND RURAL CARRIERS

Rutland, Feb. 23.—The Rutland County Association of Rural Carriers held their annual convention in this city today, 36 persons being entertained with a dinner at the home of the president, F. H. Huffer, of Rutland. The following officers were elected: President, F. H. Huffer; vice-president, W. A. Humphreys; secretary, Claude Gibbs; treasurer, John Huffer; executive committee, A. H. Stewart, Willingford; delegates to State convention, Mr. Huffer, Mr. Stewart, James Clark, West Pawlet.

EIGHT KILLED AND FIFTY INJURED IN NEW HAVEN WRECK

Rear End Collision of Passenger Trains at Milford, Conn.—Express Is Stalled by Broken Air Hose, and Local Going 40 Miles an Hour Crashes Into It—Four of the Dead Were Passengers—One a Yale Student.

Milford, Conn., Feb. 23.—Eight persons lost their lives and 50 were injured in a rear end collision of passenger trains on the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad near here today. Four of the victims were railroad employees and four were passengers.

The trains were No. 79, the Greenfield Express, scheduled as the "Connecticut River Special," and No. 5, a local train, between New Haven and New York.

A broken air hose on the express, however, the electric motor which was hauling it and the leading car stalled the train on the west end of a curve and rock cut near the Woodmont station and the local rounded the curve and crashed into it at 40 miles an hour. It is said that M. R. Curtis, engineer of No. 5, ran past a signal 2,000 feet in the rear of the express, and when he saw the home signal 300 feet in the rear of the stalled train he could not hold his train. In an instant it had rounded the curve and not only was the passenger train wrecked, but a freight train passing west on the next track was buckled up by wreckage thrown upon it.

George J. Tourlette, flagman on the station platform, according to witnesses, went back with his red flag and saw the local approaching. He stood in the track frantically waving the flag until it was too late to escape and he was ground to death a moment before the terrific crash.

The passenger trains were both of the same arrival here from the east. The local was 11 minutes late and the express 20, but the former left at 11 o'clock and the latter at 11:05, the local having station stops and using the outer of the west bound tracks. The express on the inner track, passed the local and at Woodmont was three minutes in the lead and had been crossed over to the outside track so a freight train could proceed west on the inner track. Beyond Woodmont is the curve on which at the westerly end the express became stalled.

The make-up of the express was a heavy engine, three steel coaches, three Pullmans and another steel coach added at New Haven. The local had a smaller engine and five wooden coaches, three having been added at New Haven to transport a number of passengers bound for waypoints.

Both trains were well filled with passengers. Many Yale alumni were in No. 79 as they had attended alumni day at the university and were there last night for meetings of the senior society. They were returning to New York for the local train had many on board bound for Bridgeport to attend the reunion of the Sons of the American Revolution.

As the crash came the boiler of the local exploded and hurtling through the air over the freight on the next track dropped right side up at the bottom of the deep embankment. The rest of the engine was a mass of twisted and splintered iron. The bodies of the fireman and engineer, mangled and scalded, were poked out of the wreckage.

While the roadbed was not torn up, it was literally covered with the ruins of the engine and freight cars. Heavy iron bars were twisted like wire and steel frames of the rear coach of the express were ripped apart. The rear

YOUNG ORPET IS HELD FOR GRAND JURY

Chicago, Feb. 23.—William Orpet, University of Wisconsin junior, was held today for grand jury today in connection with the death of his former sweetheart, Marion Frances Lambert.

The coroner's inquest ceased suddenly this afternoon and returned a verdict finding that the girl came to her death by cyanide of potassium poisoning, and recommending that Orpet be held. Orpet is 20 years old, and Miss Lambert, a high school pupil, was 17.

A liaison between Orpet, existed between the two. It appeared from a letter introduced into the case that the girl feared approaching motherhood, Orpet, after arranging an alibi to make it appear that he had not left Madison, Wis., visited Miss Lambert at Lake Forest, a suburb, two weeks ago. The next day her body was found.

Gray's Inn Burned.

Jackson, N. H., Feb. 23.—Gray's Inn, a well known resort in the White Mountains, was burned to the ground today, while many of the 150 guests at the house joined the volunteer fire department in a vain effort to stay the flames. The loss was estimated at \$100,000. The flames started in the attic, probably from spontaneous combustion of a defective chimney.

Epidemic Under Control.

Brandon, Feb. 23.—There has been no new case of spinal meningitis since Friday and the local board of health think they have the epidemic under control. The school will remain closed for several days longer and there will be no public gatherings for the present.

BANKRUPTCY PETITIONS

Rutland, Feb. 21.—An involuntary petition in bankruptcy has been filed in United States court against Henry C. Goss of Iraaburg, dealer in groceries and grain. It is alleged that Mr. Goss committed an act of bankruptcy on November 23, 1914, by giving W. R. Guild of Iraaburg a chattel mortgage for \$2,800 on his stock in trade. Frank D. Thompson of Barton is attorney for the petitioners.

FORMERLY OF RUTLAND.

Rutland, Feb. 22.—George Thrall, a native of Rutland and long-time resident of Rutland county, died today at Detroit, Mich., aged 80 years. Mr. Thrall was an uncle of George T. and Newman K. Chase of this city. He had been proprietor of hotels at Worcester, Mass., Mobile, Ala., and Omaha, Neb.

coach of the express, split wide open, was thrown across the moving freight, crushing these cars partly down and then falling over the eastbound tracks. Caught under it were the bodies of Miss Susan R. Hyland of New Haven and of the man believed to be Mardus der Hovhannesian, a graduate student at Yale. Late in the afternoon this car was raised sufficiently to permit the removal of the bodies and they were taken to a morgue here.

One Pullman coach narrowly escaped a plunge down the embankment with its passengers. The second coach from the rear, it was jammed with its forward end hard against one of the standards supporting the catenary system of the road. In this manner it hung on the edge of the bank.

Not a coach of the express escaped injury, the forward cars being jammed together, the windows smashed, and showing the terrific force of the impact. The baggage car of the local was torn from its trucks and thrown on its side. The rear coaches were not seriously damaged and were hauled away soon after by a wrecking train.

For several hours the track was completely blocked. Later the wreckers from New Haven and Bridgeport with their powerful steam cranes began to remove the wreckage.

In the late afternoon the railroad police roped off the right of way to keep out of the danger zone the hundreds who came by automobiles, sleighs, trolleys and on foot to view the wreck. Tonight the line was being cleared rapidly.

Miss Hyland's body was identified by her seat mate and friend, Miss Anna Shortz of New Haven, who a moment before the crash crossed the car aisle to speak to some one. Miss Hyland was employed in the office of the railroad in New Haven.

Charles E. Allen of Groton, who died in New Haven hospital later, was a salesman for a firm of cereal makers, making his headquarters in Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He was 50 years of age and is survived by his invalid wife and three sons. Identification of his body as that of Mardus der Hovhannesian was not certain tonight. There is a student at Yale of that family name.

Word came tonight from Bridgeport that General E. S. Greeley of New Haven, one of the few surviving brigade commanders of Connecticut troops in the Civil War, is believed to be dying.

The dead are: George T. Tourlette, flagman, Herick, Mass.; Patrick Collins, New York city, died in New Haven hospital; Miss Susan R. Hyland, New Haven; Charles E. Allen, Groton, Conn.; died at New Haven hospital; Edward McGinnis, fireman, male passenger believed to be named Der Hovhannesian, one employee yet unidentified.

Disregard of a cautionary signal placed by the railroad was responsible for the collision, according to Charles C. Howell of the Connecticut public utilities commission. The State's investigation already is under way, but inasmuch as four railroad employees, the most important witnesses, were killed, it will be difficult to fix responsibility. Mr. Howell said.

COAL MINERS AND OPERATORS TO CONFER

Joint Session Relative to New Wage Agreement Held Today.

New York, Feb. 23.—Representatives of the Anthracite Coal Operators and the United Mine Workers of America arrived here today to attend the joint conference which will open tomorrow to consider the demands of the miners for a new wage agreement.

The demands of the union leaders, who represent more than 175,000 workers, were formulated last September at Wilkes-Barre, Penn., and were ratified at the national convention of the United Mine Workers at Indianapolis in the last week of January. The miners' demand in brief:

A 20 per cent. increase in wages; full recognition of the United Mine Workers by the operators; a two-year contract instead of the existing four-year agreement which expires March 31; an eight-hour working day.

Representatives of 19 anthracite companies issued a statement here on February 23, in which they declared that the miners' demands are unjust and declared it was the plain duty of the operators to resist "unreasonable demands." The operators contended that to grant the increase would make necessary an advance of 60 cents a ton in the price paid for coal by the consumer.

LAFOLLETTE WILL RUN FOR PRESIDENCY

Announces That He Will Be a Republican Candidate.

Madison, Wis., Feb. 22.—Before 400 Wisconsin progressive republicans in conference here, Senator Robert M. La Follette announced tonight his candidacy for the presidency.

"I am a candidate for the republican nomination for president in 1916," declared Senator La Follette. "I believe that patriotic progressive republicans are at this time under the highest moral obligation to contest every foot of ground in every State in the Union for representation in the Chicago convention."

U. C. T.'s Entertained.

Rutland, Feb. 20.—The management of the Hotel Herwick tendered a complimentary banquet last evening to members and guests of the United Commercial Travelers, following initiation and work at the Temple. The occasion was the notable because of the sixth annual visit of the officers of the grand council.

WOMAN'S LOGIC.

Miss Angelina (to Captain Brown, who has been cruising in Alaskan waters)—I suppose, captain, that in those northern latitudes during a part of the year, the sun doesn't set till quite a while after dark.—Christian Register.

CZAR RATES PRECEDENT AND VISITS THE DUMA

First Time a Russian Emperor Has Ever Recognized the Legislative Body as a Part of the Government.

BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA

Event Emphasizes the Increasing Disposition of the Government and People to Lay Aside Internal Politics and Bring the War to a Successful Issue.

Petrograd, Feb. 23, via London, Feb. 23.—The presence of Emperor Nicholas at the opening of the Duma today was hailed by the press and public as one of the most important events in the political history of Russia. It is pointed out that the appearance of the Emperor in the House has emphasized in the most striking manner the increasing disposition of the government and people to lay aside internal politics and devote all their energies to a concerted effort to bring the war to a successful issue.

The event is alluded to by prominent members of the Duma as "the beginning of a new era" and "the first step in reaching significance to the emancipation of the serfs and the manifesto of 1906."

This was the first time that a Russian Emperor had ever visited the legislative body or in this formal way had recognized it as one of the parts of the government. It bears on the importance of the political situation through which Russia has been passing. Critics of the government have protested that since the last adjournment of the Duma the government has not shown any increased tendency to reflect the desires of the populace or yield to the demands for internal reform and that a successful prosecution of the war was impossible without some real understanding between the government and the Duma.

The Emperor's presence today is taken as a token of a new union of the government and the popular representatives toward which the liberal and progressive elements in the Duma have been striving, and will it is thought, relieve the tension and anxiety which has existed since the adjournment of the House.

The session of the Duma was opened as usual with a half hour's prayer. The Emperor entered the chamber promptly at two o'clock and during the religious ceremony stood under the holy picture of Nicholas "the wonder worker."

About noon the news that the Duma was to receive a visit from the Emperor was flashed through the chamber but the only preparation which indicated that an event unprecedented in the annals of the Duma was to take place was a strip of bright carpet which had been laid in the hall and the appearance of the golden book which has only been brought out to record the names of distinguished visitors.

Many of the deputies, who returned from the front to resume their legislative duties still wore field uniforms. The new premier, Boris V. Sturmer, who succeeded M. Gorenko in that office, made his first address. He declared that although Russia did not minimize the seriousness of the situation in the Duma and the sacrifices which she was compelled to make, both the government and the Duma were resolved that peace would not be made until Russia had gained in conjunction with her allies, a decisive victory over the enemy.

"Russia had hardly begun the work of internal reorganization," said M. Sturmer, "when the war interfered. But even in war time this work must go on. Russia's better future is coming; nothing can disturb our faith in that. In the name of this future we will not close our eyes to our mistakes and shortcomings, and we must unite our forces. A single Russia in Russian history is being opened."

The premier then spoke of the necessity of reforms to meet the new economic conditions and of giving the people a greater hand in the government. He said that the food problem and the question of freeing the country from German influence ought to command special attention.

Driving Club Dines.

Lyndonville, Feb. 23.—Following the business of the Lyndonville Driving club which was held on the snow path this afternoon, the club tonight entertained nearly 100 guests at a banquet in Cable hall. Prominent horsemen were present from Vermont and New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and the event was one of the most successful in the history of the Driving club. Dr. H. M. Smith acted as toastmaster.

This season has been a very successful one on the snow path, and some excellent sport has been furnished Saturday afternoon. Keen racing has been the rule, and former records have gone down at nearly every meet. Ruth D. owned and driven by Dr. D. R. Brown, has four times set up new marks. The first record hung up by this spunky little mare ran 20 1/2 seconds for the quarter. This was considered good time until the next matinee when the same horse clipped off a quarter of a second, turning the track in 20 1/4. Not content with this Dr. Brown drove his speed marvel in 20 seconds flat in the next week's meeting, beating out Gott Eit, which had been imported from Montreal, with the one idea of showing Ruth D. his heels. It was only natural that horsemen thought the record of 20 flat would remain for sometime, but on February 12, Ruth D. was forced to even a faster pace to retain her supremacy on the local snow path. This time she was matched against "Skillo," the property of Hugule Bros. and was given the race of her life. In the second heat of their matched race, the horses finished neck and neck and the winner was clocked in 20 1/4 by four judges.

"Father, what is a veterinary surgeon?" "One of those fellows at the pension office, my son, who examines the veterans for pensions."—Philadelphia Record.

HOUSE ARMY BILL WOULD FEDERALIZE NATIONAL GUARD

Committee Agreed on Outline of First Preparedness Measure—No Continental Army—147,000 Regulars Capable of Expansion to 275,000 Men—75,000 Reservists Produced Annually—Total Peace Strength of Guardsmen and Regulars 575,000—Cadet Corps at West Point Doubled—Extra Officers for Instructors at Military Schools.

Washington, Feb. 23.—National preparedness legislation took a long step forward in Congress today when the House military committee reached a practical agreement on the outline of the army bill. It will unanimously present for passage, chairman Hay was authorized to frame the measure, which is a compromise for the continental army plan advocated by former Secretary Garrison and President Wilson.

Complete federalization of the national guard will be substituted for the proposed continental army, the House committee was informed during the day that the committee was a unit in supporting the plan, only the language and minor details remaining to be worked out. The measure will grant virtually the entire program mapped out by Secretary Garrison for the regular army and go even farther than he recommended in providing for reserve military supplies. Total peace strength of 575,000 men, the standing army and the guard combined, will be provided for, with reserve systems to more than double the force in war.

The expense for the whole establishment this year is roughly estimated at \$174,000,000, exclusive of Panama canal defenses, carried in another bill, proposals for additional military schools in all States, carried in the McKellar bill, favorably reported to the committee with an appropriation of \$3,840,000 for this purpose, and whatever may later be decided on in carrying out a scheme to foster the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen in the United States, giving the country its own supply of ingredients for explosives. The first year of the garrison plan would have called for a total expenditure of \$182,000,000.

Whether the new bill will be acceptable to President Wilson has not been indicated, but the committee believes its plan will override every objection to the substitution of the National Guard for the continentals and that Congress has legal authority for its action.

To complete the committee's compromise with President Wilson on the continental army, the bill will authorize the increase of the regular army to a total peace strength of 147,000 by adding 10 regiments of infantry, four regiments of field artillery, 15 companies of coast artillery, 15 companies of engineers and four aero squadrons. This is the exact regular army program mapped out by former Secretary Garrison before the unfavorable reception of the continental army scheme led to his resignation.

Under the tentative bill, the regular army would have an organization capable of being expanded to 275,000 men in war time, and a reserve provision to produce annually 75,000 reservists, obligated to return to the colors under call. It will

ILL, SHOOT HERSELF.

Mrs. Clay Foss Leaves Three-Week-Old Infant—Husband Awakened by Shot.

Hyde Park, Feb. 23.—Mrs. Clay Foss, aged 40 years, committed suicide at nine o'clock last evening, shooting herself with a .32 calibre rifle while her husband slept nearby.

Mrs. Foss had been in poor health for the past six years and discouragement is thought to have unbalanced her mind. She slipped from her bed, unheard by her husband, and going into an adjoining room took some cartridges from a shelf. The rifle was fastened on the wall, getting into bed again and sitting up, she placed the muzzle against her temple. The ball passed through her head and within inches of her husband lodged in the wall.

Mr. Foss was awakened by the shot, but was unable to tell what aroused him. Smelling smoke he went into the kitchen and it was only when he returned that he discovered the rifle across his wife's lap. Mrs. Foss died about 30 minutes later.

Resides her husband, she leaves two boys, one aged seven, and an infant three weeks old. She was the youngest of a family of five children of Judson Jones of Hyde Park. She leaves two brothers, William and James Jones, both of this place.

EPIDEMIC CHECKED.

No New Cases of Spinal Meningitis in Rutland.

Brandon, Feb. 23.—There are no new cases of spinal meningitis in Rutland, the State health laboratory at Burlington that the case of Miss Margaret O'Connor was not spinal meningitis, but a form of muscular grip. The town hall and public school building are being fumigated, school will commence next Monday morning, and everything will be running as usual within a few days.

BOY WALKING TRACK HIT BY LOCOMOTIVE

Bellevue Falls, Feb. 22.—Charles Tidd, aged 13, son of Mrs. Nellie Tidd of 22 West street was walking on the tracks of the Boston and Maine railroad about 3:45 this afternoon when he was struck by the locomotive of a passenger train while getting out of the way of a freight train. He was taken to the Rockingham hospital, where it was found he had a fractured femur, a fractured bone in the left leg above the knee.

Old Stage Driver Dead.

Brattleboro, Feb. 22.—Sidney L. Morris, 33 years old, an old-time stage driver between Townsend and Brattleboro, and for many years a retired resident of West Brattleboro, died here this morning. He was born in Wilmington. Of late years he had spent the winters in the South. His wife, who was Miss Martha Taylor of Wardboro, and one daughter, Mrs. Ira Knight of New York, survive him.

VERMONT BAKERS' YEARLY MEETING AT ST. JOHNSBURY

Visit Fairbanks' Scale Works—Address by State Bank Commissioner—Banquet at Avenue House.

St. Johnsbury, Feb. 22.—The seventh annual convention of the Vermont State Bakers' association was held here today with H. M. McFarland of Hyde Park, president, in charge. 150 bakers being present. The day's program included a trip through the Fairbanks Scale works at two o'clock. At 4:30 the convention was called to order in the Fairbanks Museum. The Rev. Alfred P. Grant, pastor of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, delivered the invocation. Judge Walter P. Smith of St. Johnsbury extended the welcome to visiting bakers and the response was by H. L. Ward, ex-president of Burlington. Following the annual address of the president, the papers of C. S. Webster of Bennington, secretary, and D. J. Wells of Orwell, treasurer, were read. The principal address of the afternoon was delivered by the Hon. P. D. Williams of Newport, State bank commissioner. A banquet to the bakers was served at the Avenue House at 7:30. The Rev. Paul B. Moody, pastor of the South Congregational Church, was the toastmaster, and the speakers were Carl Lehmann, and Charles C. Griley of Boston, Arthur F. Stone, Dr. C. A. Cramton and W. J. Bigelow of St. Johnsbury. Music was furnished by the St. Johnsbury Academy quartette.

The following officers were elected: H. G. Woodruff, Barre, president; A. H. Chandler, Bellows Falls, vice-president; C. S. Webster, Barre, secretary; G. L. Wells, Orwell, treasurer; G. W. Woods, St. Johnsbury; H. H. Webster, Bennington; Roy A. Bean, Orleans, executive council; H. M. McFarland, Hyde Park, vice-president American Bakers' association; H. M. Correll, Montpelier, vice-president National Bakers' association; C. W. Rutter, St. Johnsbury, member of nominating committee; J. E. McCarten, Newport, alternate.

The retiring president urged the importance of developing the agriculture of the State to a higher degree of efficiency, and appropriating \$100,000 for starting an improvement movement among the farmers of the State.

BODY OF COMPRESSED AIR VICTIM FOUND

With Two Others He Was Shot through 40 Feet of Sand and Water.

New York, Feb. 23.—The body of Michael McCarthy, one of three workmen buried up through mud and water to the surface of the East river yesterday by a blow-out of compressed air in a subway being constructed 100 feet under the river, was recovered by the police today after they had spent 18 hours searching for it with grappling hooks. Frank Driver and Michael Mahony were the other two workmen catapulted out of the tunnel. Driver's body was recovered soon after the blow-out while Mahony escaped with a few bruises.

Persons crossing Brooklyn bridge and others at work along the lower East river front Saturday afternoon saw a geyser suddenly rise from the river, some 30 feet from the foot of Montague street, Brooklyn, mount high into the air, and then subside to a fountain, 10 feet in height, rising from a turmoil of bubbling water. The startled spectators saw dark objects in the first spurts of steam, which were carried 35 feet into the air and then sank back into the river.

Presently the watchers saw that two men were swimming for the Brooklyn shore. And then they realized that the dark objects had been men and that somehow they had been blown up out of the river. But it was only the few officials at the Montague street end of the new Broadway-Seventh avenue subway tunnel, where terrified workmen rushed into the compressed air caisson, clamoring to be let out, who realized that a part of the river bed had given way and the swimmers had been catapulted upward by the force of the compressed air. The force of sand and silt and 26 feet of river water.

It was many minutes before the extent of the accident was learned. Then it was found that one man had been killed, two injured and one was missing.

RESOURCES OF NATIONAL BANKS \$13,167,887,223

Deposits at the End of Year Reach Total of \$10,470,000,000.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Total resources of all the national banks in the United States which reported to the controller of the currency December 31, 1914, aggregated \$13,167,887,223, an increase during the year of about \$2,100,000,000. There were 5,608 banks reporting as compared with 5,732 in December, 1914.

Deposits at the end of last year reached a total of \$10,470,000,000, an increase in the year of about \$1,650,000,000 and an increase over November, 1914, of about \$230,000,000. Loans and discounts in the year increased about \$1,000,000,000 and over November, 1914, about \$120,000,000. Special holdings by the national banks increased in the 12 months \$100,000,000.

LINE FORMS ON THIS SIDE PLEASE

A music-teacher, recently arrived from the United States, was making herself generally useful, while learning the language in a mission school at Consueco, Chile. Among her other duties, for which a knowledge of Spanish was not required, was playing the organ for the Spanish choir. Her stock of words was extremely limited, but she had already learned that one can frequently change an English into a Spanish word by the addition of a final "a" or "o." That the rule was not altogether safe, she learned to the humorous amusement of the choir. The music-teacher had been helping the tenors through with their part in the anthem. The word "tenor" is the same in both languages. Then she wanted to have the basses try their part in a similar fashion. Although she was not quite sure about the word for "bass," she took a chance on it and added the final "a." Now it happens that the word in Spanish which is pronounced like "bassos," sounding a bit in base, means kisses.

What she therefore said was: "Now the kisses, please, one at a time."—World.

COULD GET MEAT AT THE FRONT.

"You see, they tell us to eat less meat," remarked the English matron. "So I give my husband cheese and tomato fritters for his tea on Monday." "Next day it's cheese and macaroni." "Next day it's cheese and bananas. But men have no idea of making sacrifices. He looks at his cheese and bananas and says: 'Miss I'm off to the blooming war. You can get meat there.'"—New York Herald.

THE KINGSHIP.

The pupils in a school were asked to write original compositions on "Kings." The prize was carried by a bright youth who penetrated the following: "The most powerful king on earth is Working; the laziest, Ship-king; a very pleasant king, Snoo-king; the wildest, Joking; the leanest, Thin-king; the most kind, Deen-king; the sleekest, Wink-king; the most garrulous, Talk-king."